

TAYLOR NATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Taylor Nation for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Taylor Nation is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Taylor Nation is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Taylor Nation for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 115th anniversary of San Francisco State University. The San Francisco State Normal School, a small women's-only teaching academy, opened its doors in March 1899. With a \$10,000 stipend from the State Legislature, the school rented a building on Powell Street and offered free tuition. The first graduating class was made up of just 36 women with the motto *Experientia docet*—"Experience teaches."

During the 1906 earthquake, the SF State Normal School was destroyed. Relocating at a new site on Market Street, SF State Normal School was the first public school to re-open after the destruction of the earthquake. In 1921, SF State Normal School changed its name to San Francisco Teachers' College and received authorization to grant the Bachelor of Arts degree.

In the 1930s, the college chose the colors purple and gold. With sports becoming more popular at SF State, the student newspaper, "Bay Leaf," called for the school to adopt a mascot. A reader proposed the alligator because "it is strong, and we hope our teams have strength."

In 1935, SF State Teachers College changed its name to San Francisco State College. The influx of returning WWII veterans swelled the student population from 1,117 in 1945 to 4,390 in 1950. To accommodate the growing number of students, 56 acres of land near Lake Merced was purchased to replace the cramped and aging campus.

During the 60s, SF State became the center of student activism. When the House Un-American Activities Committee met in San Francisco, students from SF State dem-

onstrated and disrupted the Committee's hearings in City Hall. The students were fire-hosed down the steps and arrested. Student sit-ins at the Administration Building protested racial discrimination, the Vietnam War, and the draft, pressing for campus reform.

Events came to a head in 1968, with the beginning of the longest campus strike in the nation's history. This five-month event defined the University's core values of equality and social justice, laying the groundwork for establishment of the only College of Ethnic Studies in the United States.

In 1972, San Francisco State College briefly changed its name to California State University, San Francisco. The name changed when Governor Ronald Reagan signed a measure officially changing the name to San Francisco State University in 1974.

In the 80s, SF State became the first major university to select a President of Chinese-American heritage. President Chia-Wei Woo is a symbol of SF State's continual progressive attitude that has represented the larger San Francisco community. By the millennium, SF State garnered a reputation for having several prestigious educational programs, with some of the finest trained faculty in the world.

Robert A. Corrigan served as the 12th president of San Francisco State University from September 1988 to July 2012. President Corrigan became one of the longest-serving university presidents in the education system of the United States. Under his direction, SF State developed into a respected institution with the highest ranking in the nation for the number of international students at a comprehensive university. Under President Corrigan's leadership, SF State increased its grant funding. The campus had just \$9 million in federal research grants and contracts when he first arrived, but by the time he left, SF State had \$53 million. SF State also expanded its campus with the creation of the downtown campus at Westfield San Francisco Centre mall. I had the privilege of working with President Corrigan during my tenure in Congress and he has left a lasting legacy.

Leslie E. Wong joined San Francisco State University as its 13th president in August of 2012. He now oversees one of the nation's premier urban comprehensive universities. President Wong has hit the ground running and is frequently seen on campus cheering on student athletes, academic competitors and performers. He endowed the Leslie and Phyllis Wong Scholarship as a cornerstone of the campus-wide Students First Scholarship Campaign. Having partnered with President Wong on numerous campus events and activities, I know President Wong will continue to lead SF State into a prosperous future.

Veterans make up a good portion of the student population at the university. SF State has stayed true to its commitment in helping active duty members and veterans of military service attain their educational goals. On November 10, 2010, the Veterans Services Center opened its doors and has brought together a range of veterans' support services under one roof, including pre-admissions counseling, educational benefits assistance as well as a study area with computer workstations. I had the distinct honor of meeting several of these student veterans and thanking them for their service.

Notable alumni of San Francisco State include business leaders, elected officials,

award winning authors, journalists, film stars, athletes, musicians, doctors, and scientists. This list grows with every graduating class. Though the school's name, mascot, and location have all changed, San Francisco State University remains committed to public education 115 years later. Today, SF State offers more than 200 degrees and certificates and serves nearly 30,000 students each year—quite a different story when compared to the humble beginnings of the University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to commend the San Francisco State University for its dedication to higher education.

BREAUX BRIDGE LOSES KEY LEADER JOHN "JOHNNY" THOMAS RAYMOND

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 24, 2014

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the passing of a great leader in our community who served his country as a soldier and later as a civic leader while opening numerous small businesses in South Louisiana.

John "Johnny" Thomas Raymond was a distinguished war veteran who served as a platoon leader in the Korean War and later became a member of the Army's 77th Special Forces Group. This group helped to train and reorganize the Royal Thai Army Ranger Battalion in special operations. In 2004, he was recognized as the father of the Royal Thai Army's special forces. After serving a tour in Vietnam, Johnny retired from the Army in 1968 as a lieutenant colonel. His decorated military career included receiving the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross, and the Gold Star.

Johnny was instrumental in laying the foundation for numerous civic activities such as the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame & Museum in Abbeville and the Breaux Bridge Downtown Merchants Association. He was also active in the Atchafalaya Basin Board in addition to the Louisiana Boxing Commission. For many years, he served on the Louisiana Nursing Home Association Board of Directors. This year, he was chosen as King Agricole II of the Krewe de St. Martin.

Survivors include his wife, Coatney Sibley Raymond of Breaux Bridge; his son, John R. "Bobby" Raymond and his wife, DeAnna, of Owasso, OK, his daughters, Renee R. Delahoussaye and Carol Raymond both of Breaux Bridge; his grandson, John C. Raymond and his wife, Joy, of Baton Rouge and one great granddaughter, Sadie Laine Raymond; his stepsons, Barrett Reid Branch and his wife, Angel, Byron Branch and his wife, Rhonda, all of Breaux Bridge, and Beau Branch and his wife, Wendy, of Broussard, and 5 step grandchildren, Sydney Branch, Barry Branch, Deuce Hardy, Julian Branch and Tylor Guillot.